



# 1985 UCSJ CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews • 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 402 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 393-4117

January 23, 1985

## CONGRESSMEN PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWS IN 99th CONGRESS

More than 250 Members of Congress and their staffs attended the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews' Biennial Congressional Briefing on January 23. The UCSJ legal counsel, Stuart Eizenstat, moderated the event, to welcome members of the 99th Congress and provide them with current information about Soviet Jewry.

The Hon. Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, spoke about the history of the issue in Congress. Secretary Abrams reminded the audience of the Reagan Administration's policy of calling for free emigration, in both public and private meetings, saying, "The Reagan Administration has been fully supportive of the Jackson amendment, has used it successfully with respect to Romania, and continues to view it as a very important tool to achieve the goal of free emigration." Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY) noted, "This [Soviet Jewry] is not a political issue — it is an issue of human rights."

Congressman Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA) received an award for having

sponsored the UCSJ Congressional Call to Conscience in 1984. The Call to Conscience, which began officially in 1976, enables Members of Congress to speak out on behalf of human rights in the Soviet Union. Statements about the cases of individual Soviet Jews are inserted in the Congressional Record by members who "adopt" a particular individual or family. It was announced at the briefing that in 1985 Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN) and Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI) will co-chair the Call to Conscience. Congressman Dante Fascell, Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, and whose leadership of the Helsinki Commission since its inception has been fundamental to the cause of Soviet Jewry, urged his colleagues in the House and Senate to continue with him in the ongoing struggle for human rights and free emigration for Soviet Jews.

The hosts for the event were Senator Gary Hart (D-CO), Senator John Heinz (R-PA), Congressman Dante Fascell (D-FL), and Congressman Jack Kemp (R-NY).



*Congressman Jack Kemp (R-NY)*



*(From r. to l.) Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), UCSJ President Morey Schapira, Avital Shcharansky, and UCSJ Executive Director Mark Epstein.*



*Congressman Dante Fascell (D-FL) and UCSJ Advisory Board Chairperson, Lynn Singer.*





*Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)*



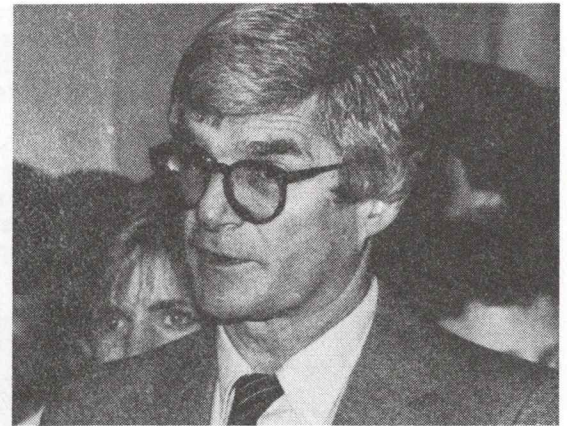
*Representative Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY)*



*UCSJ Congressional Briefing draws record attendance.*



*(From r. to l.) Assist. Sec. of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Elliott Abrams, Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), and Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY).*



*Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN)*



*Senator John Heinz (R-PA)*